

ABS COLL



June 1993

CHILD CARE A U S T R A L I A



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**CHILD CARE
AUSTRALIA
JUNE 1993**

**IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician**

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INQUIRIES: • for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Stephen Butcher on Sydney (02) 268 4214.

• for further information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the last page of this publication.

PREFACE

This publication presents findings from the National Child Care Survey in which approximately 7,650 fully responding families with children under 12 years of age participated during June 1993.

The survey collected information on existing child care arrangements, and on the need for additional formal child care. Information was also collected on parents' working arrangements in respect to child care (in particular the care of sick children) as well as employer assistance offered for child care. This information will assist with understanding the interaction of child care with work and family responsibilities.

Previous Child Care Surveys have been conducted in 1969, 1973, 1977, 1980, 1984, 1987, and 1990.

The publication is divided into two sections:

- *Section 1—Use of Child Care* highlights the number of children using different types of child care and the characteristics of these children and their parents. It provides a summary of how much child care is used and also compares the levels of usage of child care with those found in previous surveys.
- *Section 2—Demand for Formal Child Care* presents the number of children for whom a requirement for formal child care services was reported by their parents. This section also describes concepts of demand for child care and presents the data by a range of characteristics; reason for care, labour force characteristics of the parents, type of care and reasons for not requiring care or being able to get access to formal care.

Work and child care data items

Information collected on working arrangements used by parents to assist them in the care of their children—including assistance offered by employers and arrangements working parents make to care for their

children when sick—will be presented in a publication to be released later this year. This publication is part of an ABS statistical series being prepared for the International Year of the Family. The publication is called *Work and Family Responsibilities* (4422.0). It will also include relevant information from other ABS surveys such as the 1992 Family Survey and the 1992 Time Use Survey. This publication is expected to be released in August 1994.

Changes in survey estimation procedures

Please note that there has been a change in the procedure used for estimating the number of families and parents with children aged under 12 years for the 1993 survey. This will affect comparisons with data from previous surveys. Please refer to the Technical Note on Data Reliability, for more information.

There has been *no change in the procedure used for the estimation of numbers of children under 12 years of age*. These figures can be directly compared with previous survey results.

Symbols and other usages

- * estimate subject to relative standard error in excess of 25 per cent and should be treated with caution
- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals. Percentages published in tables are calculated prior to rounding the figures and therefore some discrepancy may exist between these percentages and those that would be calculated from the rounded figures.

Please refer to the Technical Note on Data Reliability, for an explanation of how to interpret standard errors and relative standard errors.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics
CANBERRA ACT
MAY 1994

SECTION 1. USE OF CHILD CARE

Summary

In June 1993, 1,504,900 children were involved in some type of *formal and/or informal* child care arrangement. This represented 49 per cent of all children under 12 years of age. In 1990 and 1987 the percentage of children using formal and/or informal care was 48 per cent and 53 per cent respectively.

Formal child care is defined as care that is regulated and occurs away from the child's home. It includes Pre-school; Before and After School Care Programs; Long Day Care Centres; Family Day Care; Occasional Care and Other Formal Care. For more information on each of these types of care please refer to the Glossary.

Some 596,200 children used formal care in 1993, representing 19 per cent of all children under 12 years of age. In 1990 and 1987 the percentage of children using formal care was 18 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

The most commonly used type of formal care was Pre-school with 236,900 children using this type of care during the survey reference period. Some 40 per cent of all children who used formal care attended Pre-school. This was followed by Long Day Care, 146,700 (25%), Before and After School Care Programs, 85,800 (14%), Family Day Care, 80,700 (14%), Occasional Care, 50,000 (8%) and Other Formal Care, 30,000 (5%). Please note that children are able to use more than one type of care so the percentages listed above will not total to 100 per cent.

Informal child care is defined as non-regulated care either in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by (step) brothers or sisters; care by relatives (including non-custodial parents) and by non-relatives. For more information please refer to the Glossary.

Informal care was the most common type of child care arrangement used by Australian children and families. Some 1,166,200 children used informal care arrangements and this represented 38 per cent of all children under 12 years of age. The largest category of informal care was care by other relatives, used by 707,100 children or 61 per cent of children using informal care.

Since 1987 the percentage of children under 12 years of age who used informal care has only varied slightly from 38 per cent in 1987 to 42 per cent in 1990 and 38 per cent in 1993.

Results from the survey also showed that over one quarter of a million children (257,500) used both formal and informal care. This represents 8 per cent of all children under 12 years of age.

Some 1,581,000 children or 51 per cent of all children under 12 years of age used neither formal nor informal care. These children may have been cared for by their parents at all times, looked after themselves or may have

at times attended activities such as scouts/guides, church or a sporting activity where care is not the main activity.

Regional differences

There were no major differences in the use of child care across States and Territories except in the ACT where usage rates were higher: 28 per cent of children used formal care, 45 per cent used informal care and 39 per cent used neither formal nor informal care. This compares with the national percentages of 19 per cent, 38 per cent and 51 per cent respectively.

There were also no significant differences when comparing child care usage between State capital cities and the balance of Australia.

Age of children in care

The pattern of child care with regard to the age of children reflects the type of care being used. For example, Before and After School Care Programs are only used by children aged 4 years and older, whereas Pre-school is used by children aged 5 years and under.

Overall the greatest use of formal care was by children aged 4 years; 183,600 children or 72 per cent of children in this age group. Pre-school accounted for 79 per cent of children aged 4 years who used formal care.

Children aged 3 years were the next largest age group who used formal care; 47 per cent of children of this age used formal care. Pre-school and Long Day Care were the two major types of formal care used by children aged 3 years, accounting for 39 and 37 per cent respectively of 3 year olds who used formal care.

There was no major variation in the percentage of children aged between 1 and 4 years who used informal care. Between 42 and 44 per cent of children in each of these ages used informal care, with care by other relatives being the major type of informal care arrangement used.

The percentage of children who used neither formal nor informal care varied markedly according to age. Among children aged less than 1 year and children aged 6-11 years, 61 per cent used neither formal nor informal care. Among 4 year olds the rate was as low as 18 per cent.

Labour force status of parents

The use of child care varied according to the labour force status of parents. Some 56 per cent of children who had both parents employed full-time used informal care and 26 per cent used formal care. This is similar to those children with both parents employed with at least one part-time; 49 per cent used informal care and 23 per cent used formal care. For those children with at least one parent not in the labour force the use of formal and informal care is less—26 per cent used informal care and 15 per cent used formal care.

Children who had both parents employed full-time or both parents employed with at least one part-time had the lowest percentage of children using neither formal nor informal care, 30 and 40 per cent respectively. In contrast, over 60 per cent of children with at least one parent not in the labour force used neither formal nor informal care.

Reasons for using care

The two major reasons that children used formal care were, that it was beneficial for the child, (44 per cent of children who used formal care) and work related reasons (43%). Personal reasons accounted for 12 per cent of children who used formal care.

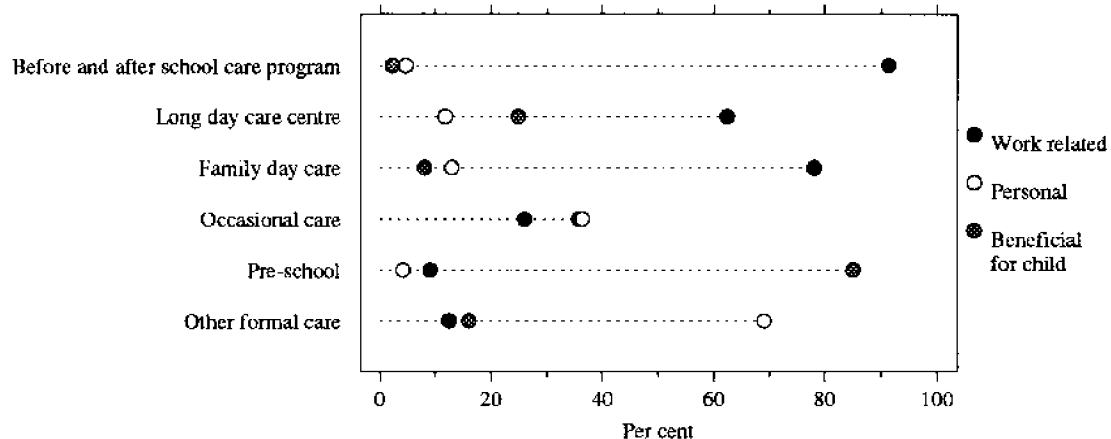
Reasons relating to benefits for the child include 'that the care is good for the child' and 'to prepare the child for

school'. For 85 per cent of children who attended Pre-school the main reason was that it was beneficial for the child.

Work related reasons include parents working, looking for work or studying/training for work. Children who attended Before and After School Care Programs, Long Day Care and Family Day Care primarily used these types of care for work related reasons. In particular, over 90 per cent of children who used Before and After School Care Programs used it for work related reasons.

The category relating to personal reasons includes parental activities such as sport, shopping, social activities and giving parents a break or time alone. Occasional Care and Other Formal Care were the two major types of care that were used for parental personal reasons.

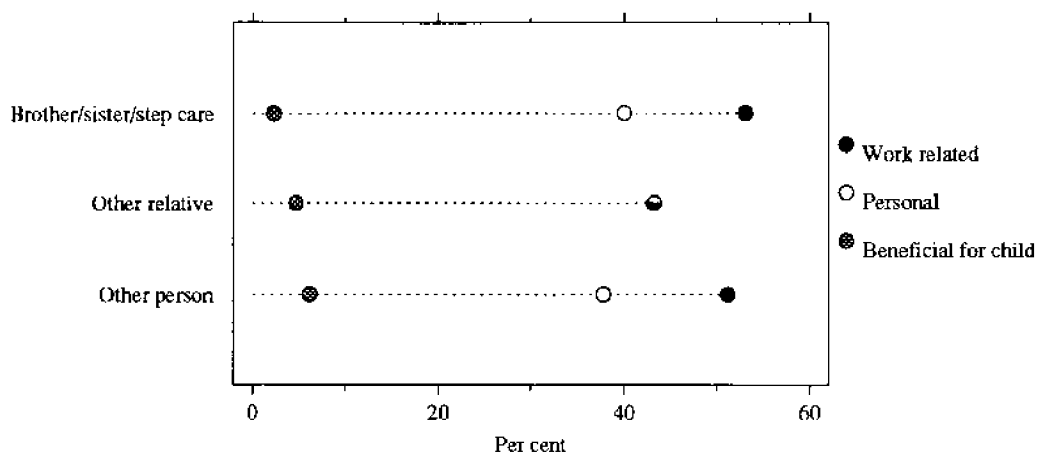
CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL CARE: MAIN REASON USED CARE BY TYPE OF FORMAL CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993



Work related (46%) and personal reasons (42%) were the major reasons parents gave for why their children used informal care. The percentage of children who used informal care because their parents worked, studied or

were looking for work varied according to the individual types of informal care. It ranged from 53 per cent for care by siblings, and 51 per cent for care by other persons to 43 per cent for care by other relatives.

CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED INFORMAL CARE: MAIN REASON USED CARE BY TYPE OF INFORMAL CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993



Hours and number of days of care

The pattern of usage varied between formal and informal care. Over 65 per cent of children who used informal care did so for less than 10 hours per week, with 8 per cent using it for over 35 hours per week. This compares with formal care where 44 per cent of children attended for less than 10 hours per week and 8 per cent attended for more than 35 hours per week. However, with formal care a significant proportion also attended between 10-19 hours per week (34 per cent) compared with informal care where only 17 per cent of children used it for 10-9 hours per week.

As well as the pattern of usage varying between formal and informal care it also varied between the different types of formal care. Some 45 per cent of children who used Long Day Care and 41 per cent who used Family Day Care attended for over 20 hours per week, whereas over 90 per cent of children who used Pre-school and over 95 per cent who used Occasional Care and Other Formal Care attended for less than 20 hours per week.

The number of week days children attended care also varies between formal and informal care. Over 40 per cent of children who attended informal care did so for one week day, 16 per cent attended on two week days and 13 per cent for five week days. Also 16 per cent used informal care on weekends only. Of those children who used formal care, 21 per cent attended five week days, 20 per cent only one week day and 26 per cent two week days. Less than 1 per cent of children who used formal care attended on weekends only.

Cost of care and weekly family income

The cost of care varied considerably between formal and informal care. Over 80 per cent of children who used informal care did so at no cost, compared with only 10 per cent of children who used formal care.

Just over 50 per cent of children who used formal care paid between \$1 and \$19 per week to use this type of care and 10 per cent paid in excess of \$60 per week to attend formal care. The high proportion of parents who paid between \$1 and \$19 per week for their children to attend formal care is influenced by the different types of formal care and the length of time and number of days that the care is used.

In particular, the costs of attending Long Day Care and Family Day Care were greater than for other types of care, reflecting the nature of this type of care. Some 21 per cent and 20 per cent of children who attended Long Day Care and Family Day Care respectively paid over \$60 per week to attend. For the other types of formal care less than 5 per cent of children paid \$60 per week to use these types of formal care.

As weekly family income increased the proportion of children who used formal care increased. For children in families with a weekly family income of less than \$160, 11 per cent used formal care compared with 29 per cent of children in families with a weekly family income in excess of \$1,280. The pattern is similar again for children who used informal care. However, as weekly family income decreased, the proportion of children who used neither formal nor informal care increased.

**TABLE 1.1 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS
AUSTRALIA, 1987, 1990 AND 1993**

<i>Child care arrangements</i>	<i>June 1987</i>		<i>November 1990</i>		<i>June 1993</i>	
	<i>Number (^{'000})</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	<i>Number (^{'000})</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	<i>Number (^{'000})</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>
Formal care only	264.0	9.1	278.0	9.3	338.7	11.0
Informal care only	915.1	31.7	1,018.1	33.9	908.7	29.4
Formal and informal care	191.3	6.6	252.5	8.4	257.5	8.3
Total	1,370.3	47.4	1,548.5	51.6	1,504.9	48.8
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	1,517.6	52.5	1,455.2	48.4	1,581.0	51.2
Total children	2,887.9	100.0	3,003.7	100.0	3,085.9	100.0
Total formal care (a)	455.2	15.7	530.4	17.6	596.2	19.3
Total informal care (b)	1,106.4	38.3	1,270.5	42.3	1,166.2	37.8

(a) Comprises the categories of Formal care only and Formal and informal care. (b) Comprises the categories of Informal care only and Formal and informal care.

**TABLE 1.2 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: TYPE OF CARE BY STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1993
(^{'000})**

<i>Type of care</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Total</i>
Formal care—									
Before and after school care program	26.3	21.8	14.8	11.9	5.2	*1.3	*0.4	4.2	85.8
Long day care centre	42.5	33.1	40.8	10.5	11.3	3.8	2.4	2.3	146.7
Family day care	24.8	18.1	13.5	8.9	6.8	3.6	2.0	3.0	80.7
Occasional care	12.0	19.9	4.4	5.0	4.2	2.1	*0.3	2.0	50.0
Pre-school	82.8	52.2	42.4	17.3	32.6	2.9	2.8	3.9	236.9
Other formal care	7.4	7.9	6.8	*2.3	4.5	*0.2	*0.2	*0.7	30.0
Total children who used formal care (a)	187.3	144.4	115.7	52.3	60.9	13.1	7.5	14.9	596.2
Total children who used formal care only	111.4	75.8	69.7	27.1	32.9	8.4	4.8	8.7	338.7
Informal care—									
Brother/sister/step care	53.3	37.6	28.1	11.4	18.7	3.4	2.3	4.3	159.1
Other relative	235.4	186.9	116.6	63.6	68.9	20.6	4.8	10.3	707.1
Other person	119.1	98.7	65.5	34.8	45.1	7.5	7.7	10.7	389.1
Total children who used informal care (b)	379.7	297.4	197.1	100.6	123.5	29.8	14.5	23.7	1,166.2
Total children who used informal care only	303.8	228.8	151.0	75.4	95.5	25.0	11.8	17.5	908.7
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	557.3	390.1	279.8	114.3	153.4	46.6	18.8	20.7	1,581.0
Total children (c)	1,048.5	763.3	546.5	242.0	309.8	84.7	38.1	53.1	3,085.9

(a) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care. (b) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care. (c) Comprises Total children who used formal care, Total children who used informal care only and Children who used neither formal nor informal care.

TABLE 1.3 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: TYPE OF CARE BY AGE OF CHILD, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(^{'000})

Type of care	Age of child (years)							Total
	Less than one	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six to eleven	
Formal care—								
Before and after school care program	—	—	—	—	*1.8	9.5	74.6	85.8
Long day care centre	5.2	21.7	34.6	45.3	30.2	6.6	*3.1	146.7
Family day care	6.2	12.4	15.6	15.4	12.3	4.7	14.1	80.7
Occasional care	*2.0	7.3	12.6	15.6	7.0	*1.8	*3.7	50.0
Pre-school	—	*0.2	*1.7	47.9	144.6	42.5	—	236.9
Other formal care	*3.9	*4.4	7.8	6.8	4.7	*1.4	*1.0	30.0
<i>Total children who used formal care (a)</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>45.3</i>	<i>69.8</i>	<i>123.2</i>	<i>183.6</i>	<i>62.8</i>	<i>94.2</i>	<i>596.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only	10.2	25.9	41.4	69.2	99.1	37.7	55.1	338.7
Informal care—								
Brother/sister/step care	*2.4	*3.5	*3.2	6.1	6.7	9.2	128.1	159.1
Other relative	71.6	83.2	83.2	75.5	71.2	54.1	268.2	707.1
Other person	21.5	32.2	32.2	35.9	42.1	35.2	190.0	389.1
<i>Total children who used informal care (b)</i>	<i>91.8</i>	<i>112.6</i>	<i>109.8</i>	<i>110.4</i>	<i>110.5</i>	<i>91.9</i>	<i>539.3</i>	<i>1,166.2</i>
Total children who used informal care only	84.9	93.2	81.4	56.4	25.9	66.8	500.2	908.7
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	161.3	116.0	109.5	80.0	45.8	124.5	943.8	1,581.0
Total children (c)	263.3	254.6	260.7	259.6	255.3	254.0	1,538.3	3,085.9

(a) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care. (b) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care. (c) Comprises Total children who used formal care, Total children who used informal care only and Children who used neither formal nor informal care.

TABLE 1.4 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: TYPE OF CARE BY WHETHER CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993 ('000)

Type of care	Aged 4-5 years			Aged 6-11 years		Aged 4-11 years		Total children
	Less than 4 years old	Attending school	Not attending school	Attending school	Not attending school	Attending school	Not attending school	
Formal care—								
Before and after school care program	—	11.0	*0.2	74.6	—	85.6	*0.2	85.8
Long day care centre	106.8	*2.2	34.6	*3.1	—	5.4	34.6	146.7
Family day care	49.6	*3.2	13.8	14.1	—	17.3	13.8	80.7
Occasional care	37.6	*0.2	8.6	*3.6	*0.1	*3.8	8.7	50.0
Pre-school	49.8	—	187.1	—	—	—	187.1	236.9
Other formal care	22.9	*1.1	4.9	*1.0	—	*2.1	4.9	30.0
Total children who used formal care (a)	255.5	17.4	229.0	94.2	*0.1	111.6	229.1	596.2
Total children who used formal care only	146.8	9.4	127.3	55.1	—	64.5	127.3	338.7
Informal care—								
Brother/sister/step care	15.2	7.7	8.1	128.1	—	135.8	8.1	159.1
Other relative	313.6	46.4	79.0	268.1	*0.1	314.4	79.1	707.1
Other person	121.8	26.4	50.8	189.8	*0.2	216.3	51.0	389.1
Total children who used informal care (b)	424.5	74.5	127.8	539.1	*0.2	613.6	128.1	1,166.2
Total children who used informal care only	315.8	66.5	26.1	500.1	*0.2	566.6	26.3	908.7
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	466.9	126.9	43.3	943.3	*0.5	1,070.2	43.9	1,581.0
Total children (c)	1,038.2	210.8	298.5	1,537.6	*0.8	1,748.4	299.3	3,085.9

(a) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care. (b) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care. (c) Comprises Total children who used formal care, Total children who used informal care only and Children who used neither formal nor informal care.

TABLE 1.5 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: TYPE OF CARE BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(^{'000})

Type of care	Labour force status of parents						Total
	Both parents employed full-time (a)	Both parents employed at least one part-time (a)	Both parents in labour force at least one unemployed (a)	One parent employed other not in the labour force	One parent unemployed other not in the labour force	Both parents not in the labour force (a)	
Formal care—							
Before and after school care program	42.7	33.0	*1.3	*3.6	*0.2	5.0	85.8
Long day care centre	36.2	54.4	9.2	27.3	5.2	14.5	146.7
Family day care	25.3	35.1	*3.2	8.3	*0.9	8.0	80.7
Occasional care	*3.3	17.1	*1.8	20.1	*3.7	*4.0	50.0
Pre-school	19.5	74.9	13.9	92.0	13.4	23.2	236.9
Other formal care	*1.1	7.9	*0.7	17.4	*0.3	*2.7	30.0
<i>Total children who used formal care (b)</i>	<i>122.5</i>	<i>207.1</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>161.1</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>54.1</i>	<i>596.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only	65.6	98.7	17.9	105.9	14.7	35.8	338.7
Informal care—							
Brother/sister/step care	50.1	57.9	12.4	23.0	4.7	10.9	159.1
Other relative	141.3	248.6	45.2	172.3	26.0	73.7	707.1
Other person	94.2	166.7	15.3	80.8	6.9	25.3	389.1
<i>Total children who used informal care (c)</i>	<i>263.3</i>	<i>433.6</i>	<i>67.8</i>	<i>261.0</i>	<i>36.4</i>	<i>104.1</i>	<i>1,166.2</i>
Total children who used informal care only	206.4	325.2	56.3	205.9	29.1	85.8	908.7
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	139.6	350.3	105.8	661.5	119.0	204.9	1,581.0
Total children (d)	468.4	882.6	191.5	1,028.5	170.1	344.8	3,085.9

(a) Includes one parent families. (b) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care. (c) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care. (d) Comprises Total children who used formal care, Total children who used informal care only and Children who used neither formal nor informal care.

**TABLE 1.6 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: TYPE OF CARE BY WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME, AUSTRALIA,
JUNE 1993
('000)**

Type of care	Weekly family income								Don't know/ Not stated	Total
	Less than \$160	\$160 to \$319	\$320 to \$479	\$480 to \$639	\$640 to \$799	\$800 to \$1,039	\$1,040 to \$1,279	\$1,280 and over		
Formal care—										
Before and after school care program	*0.1	6.5	9.3	9.1	10.7	13.9	12.2	22.5	*1.6	85.8
Long day care centre	*1.9	22.4	21.4	25.0	20.6	20.2	13.5	18.2	*3.6	146.7
Family day care	*1.0	9.7	12.9	8.2	8.9	16.0	13.2	8.0	*2.8	80.7
Occasional care	*0.4	5.8	12.3	7.6	5.8	7.6	*4.5	4.8	*1.0	50.0
Pre-school	*4.1	32.6	43.3	44.1	30.0	33.9	17.8	20.5	10.7	236.9
Other formal care	*0.1	*2.6	*3.7	5.3	*4.1	*2.9	*3.6	5.8	*1.9	30.0
<i>Total children who used formal care (a)</i>	7.6	74.6	96.6	94.8	77.0	89.2	61.3	75.1	20.1	596.2
Total children who used formal care only	5.4	44.6	63.7	51.7	41.0	51.0	34.7	34.3	12.2	338.7
Informal care—										
Brother/sister/step care	*3.1	16.5	22.5	24.3	19.3	26.5	19.1	21.4	6.4	159.1
Other relative	14.5	110.0	112.7	121.0	99.7	112.6	49.7	66.0	20.9	707.1
Other person	*3.5	39.8	40.2	58.1	53.4	62.9	47.9	70.5	12.9	389.1
<i>Total children who used informal care (b)</i>	20.4	155.0	163.7	189.5	160.7	187.7	107.3	144.5	37.3	1,166.2
Total children who used informal care only	18.3	125.0	130.7	146.4	124.7	149.6	80.7	103.8	29.5	908.7
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	43.0	251.6	331.7	296.5	203.8	180.3	100.1	84.4	89.4	1,581.0
Total children (c)	68.9	451.2	559.1	537.6	405.6	419.1	242.1	263.3	139.0	3,085.9

(a) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care. (b) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care. (c) Comprises Total children who used formal care, Total children who used informal care only and Children who used neither formal nor informal care.

TABLE 1.7 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: TYPE OF CARE BY FAMILY TYPE, MAIN LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*'000*)

<i>Type of care</i>	<i>Family type</i>		<i>Main language spoken at home</i>		<i>Area of usual residence</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>One parent</i>	<i>Two parent</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>State capital cities</i>	<i>Balance of Australia</i>	
Formal care—							
Before and after school care program	19.6	66.2	77.9	7.9	66.1	19.8	85.8
Long day care centre	30.5	116.2	133.2	13.5	96.8	50.0	146.7
Family day care	19.9	60.9	74.0	6.8	46.4	34.3	80.7
Occasional care	4.9	45.0	45.0	4.9	32.8	17.2	50.0
Pre-school	27.7	209.2	218.3	18.6	136.7	100.2	236.9
Other formal care	*2.7	27.3	29.3	*0.7	20.9	9.0	30.0
<i>Total children who used formal care (a)</i>	<i>97.8</i>	<i>498.4</i>	<i>544.8</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>379.1</i>	<i>217.1</i>	<i>596.2</i>
Total children who used formal care only	48.5	290.2	301.6	37.1	221.3	117.3	338.7
Informal care—							
Brother/sister/step care	22.1	137.0	142.4	16.7	90.7	68.5	159.1
Other relative	138.4	568.7	642.8	64.4	412.4	294.8	707.1
Other person	60.8	328.3	369.5	19.5	227.3	161.7	389.1
<i>Total children who used informal care (b)</i>	<i>198.6</i>	<i>967.6</i>	<i>1,068.4</i>	<i>97.8</i>	<i>680.2</i>	<i>486.1</i>	<i>1,166.2</i>
Total children who used informal care only	149.3	759.5	825.2	83.5	522.4	386.3	908.7
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	182.2	1,398.8	1,350.4	230.6	936.9	644.1	1,581.0
Total children (c)	429.2	2,656.7	2,720.4	365.5	1,838.4	1,247.5	3,085.9

(a) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care. (b) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care. (c) Comprises Total children who used formal care, Total children who used informal care only and Children who used neither formal nor informal care.

TABLE 1.3 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE IN COUPLE FAMILIES: TYPE OF CARE BY WEEKLY HOURS WORKED BY EACH PARENT, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

Type of care	Weekly hours worked by father					Total employed	Not employed	Total
	Less than 16	16-29	30-34	35-40	41 or more			
Formal care—								
Before and after school care program	*2.8	*1.4	*3.0	19.7	35.7	62.6	*3.7	66.2
Long day care centre	5.8	5.0	7.5	37.8	46.7	102.9	13.3	116.2
Family day care	*2.6	*2.5	*3.7	22.3	26.7	57.8	*3.0	60.9
Occasional care	*3.2	*2.1	*0.8	13.0	21.9	40.9	*4.1	45.0
Pre-school	8.4	5.8	9.2	58.0	102.2	183.7	25.5	209.2
Other formal care	*1.0	*1.7	*0.8	8.4	14.3	26.2	*1.1	27.3
<i>Total children who used formal care (a)</i>	22.7	17.4	23.7	151.8	234.8	450.4	48.0	498.4
Total children who used formal care only	13.4	11.3	16.2	91.4	124.9	257.2	33.0	290.2
Informal care—								
Brother/sister/step care	6.9	4.6	8.0	36.2	69.4	125.0	12.0	137.0
Other relative	23.6	19.1	27.2	164.7	276.3	510.9	57.8	568.7
Other person	16.5	13.3	16.1	91.7	174.8	312.4	15.9	328.3
<i>Total children who used informal care (b)</i>	44.4	33.8	48.2	278.1	481.7	886.2	81.4	967.6
Total children who used informal care only	35.1	27.8	40.8	217.6	371.8	693.0	66.4	759.5
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	72.7	66.5	68.2	404.8	535.3	1,147.5	251.3	1,398.8
Total children in couple families (c)	130.6	111.6	132.6	774.3	1,141.8	2,290.9	365.8	2,656.7
Type of care	Weekly hours worked by mother					Total employed	Not employed	Total
	Less than 16	16-29	30-34	35-40	41 or more			
Formal care—								
Before and after school care program	7.4	18.5	5.8	21.1	9.5	62.3	*3.9	66.2
Long day care centre	20.4	22.4	9.2	19.5	7.3	78.7	37.5	116.2
Family day care	11.8	15.8	7.2	11.4	4.6	50.9	9.9	60.9
Occasional care	10.1	5.0	*1.6	*2.6	*0.2	19.6	25.4	45.0
Pre-school	40.4	30.9	5.3	8.7	6.0	91.4	117.8	209.2
Other formal care	5.4	*1.4	*1.6	*0.5	—	8.9	18.4	27.3
<i>Total children who used formal care (a)</i>	90.2	87.7	29.2	61.1	26.6	294.8	203.6	498.4
Total children who used formal care only	45.9	43.9	14.3	36.9	14.5	155.5	134.7	290.2
Informal care—								
Brother/sister/step care	22.9	29.2	10.5	23.9	15.5	102.1	34.9	137.0
Other relative	120.7	92.2	30.7	63.1	38.0	344.7	224.0	568.7
Other person	66.1	73.7	24.3	42.8	23.8	230.8	97.5	328.3
<i>Total children who used informal care (b)</i>	197.0	177.5	61.7	122.9	69.6	628.6	339.0	967.6
Total children who used informal care only	152.7	133.7	46.8	98.6	57.5	489.3	270.1	759.5
Children who used neither formal nor informal care	204.5	131.2	36.4	76.0	42.6	490.7	908.1	1,398.8
Total children in couple families (c)	447.4	352.7	112.4	235.7	126.7	1,274.8	1,381.9	2,656.7

(a) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care. (b) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care. (c) Comprises Total children who used formal care, Total children who used informal care only and Children who used neither formal nor informal care.

TABLE 1.9 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE: TYPE OF CARE BY WEEKLY HOURS OF CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

Type of care	Weekly hours of care								Total
	Less than 5	5-9	10-19	20-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 or more	
Formal care—									
Before and after school care program	38.9	21.3	22.1	*3.3	*0.2	—	—	—	85.8
Long day care centre	*4.0	26.4	50.1	25.1	9.3	7.9	12.3	11.6	146.7
Family day care	9.0	16.4	22.1	15.5	6.5	*1.8	*4.3	5.0	80.7
Occasional care	34.1	10.6	4.7	*0.6	—	—	—	—	50.0
Pre-school	30.7	80.5	108.4	10.4	5.4	*0.5	*0.5	*0.5	236.9
Other formal care	23.9	*2.8	*2.7	*0.2	—	*0.2	—	*0.2	30.0
Total children who used formal care (a)	120.8	144.0	203.1	57.6	21.5	13.0	17.8	18.5	596.2
Total children who used formal care only (a)	62.1	76.3	109.4	39.4	15.4	8.9	13.7	13.5	338.7
Informal care—									
Brother/sister/step care	104.3	37.3	15.1	*1.2	—	—	—	*1.2	159.1
Other relative	288.3	140.2	120.4	67.3	19.2	10.3	14.3	47.0	707.1
Other person	193.7	92.6	54.0	22.2	5.9	4.8	5.1	10.8	389.1
Total children who used informal care (b)	504.0	255.1	192.6	91.9	26.1	17.0	18.5	61.0	1,166.2
Total children who used informal care only (b)	392.4	192.2	150.2	68.7	20.5	15.1	15.9	53.6	908.7
Total children who used formal and/or informal care (c)	463.1	308.4	353.2	158.3	52.9	34.0	41.4	93.5	1,504.9

(a) Where a child attends more than one type of formal care the hours are added together. (b) Where a child attends more than one type of informal care the hours are added together. (c) Where a child attends more than one type of care the hours are added together.

TABLE 1.10 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE: TYPE OF CARE BY NUMBER OF DAYS CARE USED, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

Type of care	Number of weekdays care used (a)						Total
	Weekends only	One day a week	Two days a week	Three days a week	Four days a week	Five days a week	
Formal care—							
Before and after school care program	—	18.0	14.5	15.7	7.8	29.8	85.8
Long day care centre	—	26.2	44.2	22.4	14.1	40.0	146.7
Family day care	*0.3	16.1	17.9	12.5	13.1	20.9	80.7
Occasional care	—	32.4	10.3	*3.8	*1.4	*2.1	50.0
Pre-school	—	35.8	70.9	49.3	51.2	29.7	236.9
Other formal care	*1.6	16.7	6.7	*3.3	*0.8	*0.8	30.0
Total children who used formal care (b)	*1.7	119.3	156.2	105.6	87.8	125.7	596.2
Total children who used formal care only (b)	*1.6	57.9	83.0	57.4	51.2	87.6	338.7
Informal care—							
Brother/sister/step care	19.7	64.8	23.2	13.5	11.7	26.2	159.1
Other relative	129.1	306.1	109.2	48.0	25.9	88.8	707.1
Other person	55.0	182.8	63.0	30.1	18.9	39.2	389.1
Total children who used informal care (c)	180.8	476.5	191.4	101.2	59.9	156.6	1,166.2
Total children who used informal care only (c)	139.9	354.8	141.7	82.2	49.2	140.9	908.7
Total children who used formal and/or informal care (d)	141.4	426.4	276.8	200.9	150.0	309.4	1,504.9

(a) Where a child attends care on both weekdays and weekends they are recorded only under the relevant number of weekdays. (b) Where a child attends more than one type of formal care the number of days are added together. (c) Where a child attends more than one type of informal care the number of days are added together. (d) Where a child attends more than one type of care the number of days are added together.

TABLE 1.11 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL AND/OR INFORMAL CARE: TYPE OF CARE BY WEEKLY COST OF CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

Type of care	Weekly cost of care									Total
	No cost	\$1 to \$9	\$10 to \$19	\$20 to \$39	\$40 to \$59	\$60 to \$79	\$80 to \$99	\$100 or more	Not stated	
Formal care—										
Before and after school care program	*3.6	33.0	23.5	17.7	6.4	*0.6	*0.1	*0.2	*0.7	85.8
Long day care centre	*1.5	22.3	32.1	38.0	21.4	8.2	6.2	16.7	*0.4	146.7
Family day care	*2.3	18.7	16.2	17.2	9.7	7.1	*3.6	5.3	*0.6	80.7
Occasional care	*4.2	31.1	8.7	*4.1	*0.5	*0.6	*0.7	—	—	50.0
Pre-school	43.7	96.5	45.6	29.6	13.3	4.7	*1.1	*2.1	*0.3	236.9
Other formal care	11.2	14.0	*1.8	*2.4	*0.5	—	—	—	—	30.0
Total children who used formal care (a)	57.9	195.9	120.6	109.6	51.3	22.5	11.2	25.2	*2.0	596.2
Total children who used formal care only (a)	33.4	104.8	69.1	59.1	32.4	13.4	7.7	17.1	*1.6	338.7
Informal care—										
Brother/sister/step care	154.7	*2.2	*1.4	*0.3	*0.6	—	—	—	—	159.1
Other relative	670.0	5.2	6.2	9.0	6.1	*2.2	*1.9	*2.3	*4.4	707.1
Other person	219.6	33.7	43.4	44.0	22.6	8.6	*4.0	10.4	*2.9	389.1
Total children who used informal care (b)	956.9	40.1	50.3	53.4	29.0	11.1	5.8	12.6	7.0	1,166.2
Total children who used informal care only (b)	751.3	29.6	36.9	38.9	22.0	8.9	4.8	9.9	6.3	908.7
Total children who used formal and/or informal care (c)	803.9	212.3	154.9	152.9	78.7	34.5	19.4	39.2	9.0	1,504.9

(a) Where a child attends more than one type of formal care the costs are added together. (b) Where a child attends more than one type of informal care the costs are added together. (c) Where a child attends more than one type of care the costs are added together.

TABLE 1.12 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL CARE: MAIN REASON USED CARE BY TYPE OF FORMAL CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

Type of formal care	Main reason used formal care				Total
	Work related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other	
Before and after school care program	78.5	*4.1	*2.0	*1.3	85.8
Long day care centre	91.7	17.2	36.5	*1.2	146.7
Family day care	63.0	10.4	6.5	*0.7	80.7
Occasional care	13.1	18.2	17.9	*0.7	50.0
Pre-school	21.6	10.0	201.7	*3.6	236.9
Other formal care	*3.7	20.7	4.8	*0.7	30.0
Total children who used formal care (a)	255.5	72.9	260.0	7.9	596.2

(a) As children may use more than one type of formal care the categories will not add to Total children who used formal care.

TABLE 1.13 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED INFORMAL CARE: MAIN REASON USED CARE BY TYPE OF INFORMAL CARE, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

Type of informal care	Main reason used informal care				Total
	Work related	Personal	Beneficial for child	Other	
Brother/sister/step care	84.5	63.7	*3.6	7.3	159.1
Other relative	306.1	305.1	33.0	63.0	707.1
Other person	199.3	147.0	24.1	18.8	389.1
Total children who used informal care (a)	539.2	489.6	55.3	82.1	1,166.2

(a) As children may use more than one type of informal care the categories will not add to Total children who used informal care.

SECTION 2. DEMAND FOR FORMAL CHILD CARE

Influences on demand

The market for formal child care in Australia is characterised by a mixture of public and private provision, with government subsidies affecting prices paid by a good proportion of families who consume child care services. The level of supply is thus affected very much by the level of subsidised services which governments choose to provide. In such a setting, both governments and the community share an interest in indicators of the level of demand, which can inform policy debate and decisions about the level of public provision.

As has been described in Chapter 1, the level of usage of child care services is higher for children whose parents are engaged in employment, particularly full-time employment, than for children with at least one parent not employed or not in the labour force. Usage of formal care follows this pattern, with proportions of children in receipt of formal care, ranging from 26 per cent for those with both parents employed full-time to 13 per cent for those with one parent unemployed and the other not in the labour force, as the following chart shows.

CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: USE OF FORMAL CARE BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993

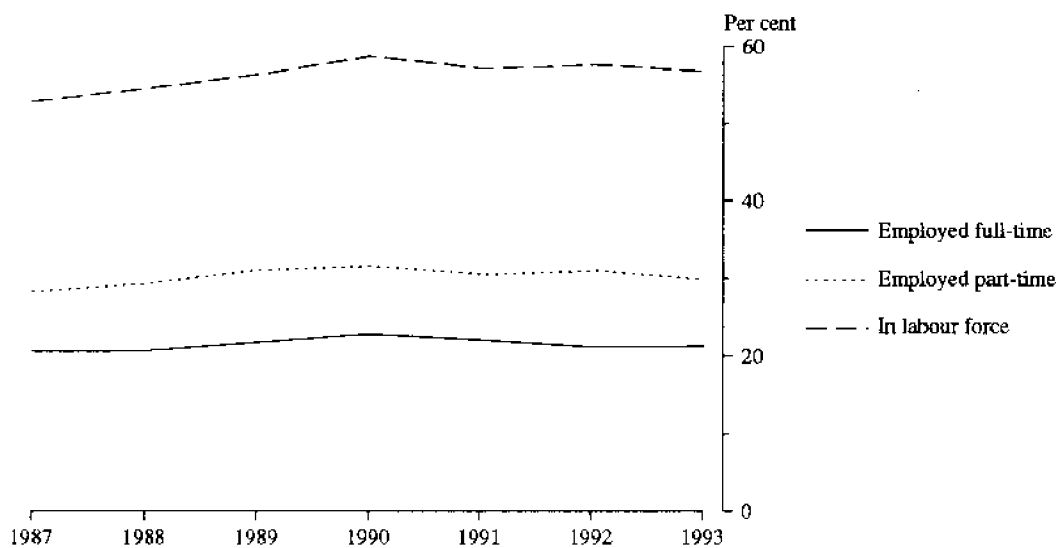


(a) Includes one parent families.

This suggests that relevant indicators of demand for child care would include the labour force status of parents. While males in families with children aged under 15 years have maintained labour force participation rates at around 95 per cent over the period 1987 to 1993, the period covered by the last three Child Care Surveys, there has been a generally increasing trend for females. ABS labour force figures show the participation rate for females in families with children increasing from 53 per cent in 1987 to a peak of 59 per cent in 1990, then easing back with the economic downturn to 57 per cent in 1993.

As figures in Table 1.8 have shown, the proportion of children receiving formal child care is generally higher where parents, especially mothers, work longer hours. Thus trends in parents participating in full-time or part-time work are also likely to be useful indicators of the demand for child care. In line with trends in labour force participation, proportions of females in families with children working both full-time and part-time rose to a peak in 1990 and have since declined, but remain higher than in 1987.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF WOMEN IN FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN 0-14 YEARS, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1987 TO 1993
(Proportion of civilian population)



Source: ABS Labour Force Surveys, June each year.

Demand measurement in Child Care Surveys

Indicators of demand for formal child care services have been collected in Child Care Surveys conducted by the ABS. As in the 1990 survey, the 1993 survey asked parents whether they would have liked to use any, or additional, formal care services in the four weeks preceding the survey.

However, additional requirements for child care identified in response to a survey question will not necessarily all be of the kind that would attract increased public provision of child care services. They fit into the category of demand that Bradshaw¹ describes as *felt need*, that is a requirement as articulated by an individual, judging his or her own circumstances. The extent to which the individual values expressed in felt need are shared by the community will affect the public response. Nevertheless, changes over time in the level of felt need have a place in informing debate about demand for services and are reported in this chapter (Table 2.1).

A limitation of using felt need as an unqualified measure of demand for a service is that it does not indicate under what conditions the demand would become effective. Further information gathered in child care surveys has been designed to address this as far as is possible. Thus if formal care was required, parents were then asked what type of care was required for their children, and how much. If formal care wasn't required, parents were asked why they didn't need this type of care. Parents who stated they had a requirement for formal care were also asked whether the care was available to be used during the four week reference period. If they reported that the care was available, they were then asked why they didn't use it. Reasons given could include, for example, cost, distance

to the service and the child's age (too young or too old). If respondents said that the service wasn't available, they were asked the main reason why they perceived it as being unavailable. The reasons given include that none existed in the area or that they didn't know of any in the area, that they were booked out, or other reasons such as cost, distance or access to transport, and again that the child was too young or too old. Results from such questions are reported in this chapter.

A demand measure can also be derived by reference to minimum standards of social provision established by policy makers and relevant experts. This is referred to as *normative need* because it is based on established norms or values. Information from the Child Care Survey on the family size and income of those using formal care enables the impact of such norms as exist in service eligibility criteria to be observed.

Bradshaw's typology of social need also includes concepts of *expressed need*, based on action taken by individuals and *comparative need*, where relative standards applying to groups in society are established. None of these measures alone is capable of giving an accurate measure of the broad and complex nature of social need. Policy makers depend on a range of measures in order to plan service levels and to target delivery. These must also be related to criteria for using a particular service and who this service is aimed at. Data from this survey can be built into complex models and resource allocation formulas in order to assist the policy making decision process. The following results highlight some of the main findings from the survey.

1 Bradshaw J (1972) The concept of social need *New Society* 19:496:640-43

Summary

Table 2.1 reports the felt need for formal child care. Some 489,200 or 16 per cent of children under 12 years of age were reported to require formal care. The requirement for formal care was greater for children who were not already receiving some type of formal care. Nearly three quarters of children for whom there was a requirement for formal care reported, were not already using formal care.

Between 1990 and 1993 there has been no significant change in the felt need for formal care. In 1990, 17 per cent of all children had a need for formal care reported, compared with 16 per cent in 1993.

Parental work remains the single largest reason for requiring formal care. With 156,600 or 32 per cent of children requiring formal care for this reason. This was followed by the reason of giving parents a break/time alone, 102,400 or 21 per cent. This compares with 1990 where 31 per cent required care for parental work reasons and 18 per cent to give parents a break/time alone.

Occasional Care was required for more children than any other type of formal care, (39 per cent of children who required formal care), followed by Before and After School Care Programs with 26 per cent. This follows the same pattern as in 1990, when Other Formal Care (which included Occasional Care) and Before and After School Care Programs were also the major two types of formal care required by parents for their children.

Labour force status of parents

For those children with both parents in the labour force, 18 per cent required formal care, while for those children with only one or no parents in the labour force, 14 per cent required formal care.

There was also a difference in the type of care required between those children with both parents in the labour force and those with only one or no parents in the labour force. Before and After School Care Programs was the major type of care required for children with both parents in the labour force (35 per cent of children in this category), while 48 per cent of children with one or no parents in the labour force required Occasional Care.

Age

Children aged 1–4 years have the greatest requirement for formal care with over 20 per cent of children in each of these ages requiring care. In particular Occasional Care and Long Day Care were the main two types of formal care required, accounting for 70 per cent of the formal care requirements for children aged 1–4 years.

For children aged 6 to 11 years the major two types of care required were Before and After School Care Programs and Occasional Care. These two types of care accounted for 84 per cent of the formal care required by children of this age.

Reasons for not using the formal care that was required

Parents of those children whose requirements for formal care were not met, were asked whether the required formal care was available in the four weeks prior to the survey and if so, why they didn't use it and if it was not available why it was unavailable.

For 205,000 children the reasons for not using formal care when it was required was that parents stated; 'none existed in the area/don't know of any in the area' (134,200 children) and 'didn't know whether care was available' (70,700 children). These two accounted for 42 per cent of all children who required formal care.

The next most common reasons for not using formal care that was required were; 'booked out no places', 81,200 children (17 per cent of children who required formal care) and 'cost/too expensive', 72,800 children (15 per cent of children who required formal care).

Reasons why children didn't require formal care

The major reason why children didn't require formal care was that parents stated they had 'no need'; 1,686,600 children or 65 per cent of children who didn't require formal care. This was followed by 'prefer to look after child'; 476,300 children or 18 per cent and 'child too young/old'; 131,500 children or 5 per cent.

TABLE 2.1 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: WHETHER (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, AUSTRALIA, 1990 AND 1993

<i>Whether (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>November 1990</i>		<i>June 1993</i>	
	<i>Number ('000)</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	<i>Number ('000)</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>
(Additional) Formal care required—				
Currently use formal care	117.5	3.9	125.4	4.1
Currently use informal care only	215.5	7.2	175.3	5.7
Use neither formal nor informal care	181.1	6.0	188.6	6.1
<i>Total, (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>514.1</i>	<i>17.1</i>	<i>489.2</i>	<i>15.9</i>
No (additional) formal care required—				
Currently use formal care	412.9	13.7	470.8	15.3
Currently use informal care only	802.6	26.7	733.4	23.8
Use neither formal nor informal care	1,274.1	42.4	1,392.4	45.1
<i>Total, no (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>2,489.6</i>	<i>82.9</i>	<i>2,596.7</i>	<i>84.1</i>
Total children	3,003.7	100.0	3,085.9	100.0

TABLE 2.2 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO REQUIRED (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE: MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, AUSTRALIA, 1990 AND 1993

<i>Main type of (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>November 1990</i>		<i>June 1993</i>	
	<i>Number ('000)</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	<i>Number ('000)</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>
Before and after school care program	128.8	25.1	125.1	25.6
Long day care centre	89.3	17.4	63.8	13.0
Family day care	75.7	14.7	60.2	12.3
Occasional care (a)	..	..	191.8	39.2
Pre-school	54.3	10.6	30.0	6.1
Other formal care (a)	166.0	32.3	18.3	3.7
Total children who required (additional) formal care	514.1	100.0	489.2	100.0

(a) Occasional care was not separately identified in the 1990 survey, it was part of the category 'Other formal care'.

TABLE 2.3 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO REQUIRED (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE: MAIN REASON (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE IS REQUIRED, AUSTRALIA, 1990 AND 1993

<i>Main reason (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>November 1990</i>		<i>June 1993</i>	
	<i>Number ('000)</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>	<i>Number ('000)</i>	<i>Proportion (per cent)</i>
Work related reasons—				
Work	158.6	30.9	156.6	32.0
Looking for work	16.8	3.3	9.6	2.0
Studying/training for work	18.2	3.5	19.9	4.1
<i>Total work related reasons</i>	<i>193.6</i>	<i>37.7</i>	<i>186.2</i>	<i>38.1</i>
Personal reasons—				
Sport	12.0	2.3	14.9	3.0
Shopping	62.7	12.2	50.4	10.3
Entertainment/social activity	20.9	4.1	12.5	2.6
Give parents a break/time alone	90.8	17.7	102.4	20.9
Voluntary/community activity	9.0	1.8	*2.8	*0.6
Care for relatives	*4.3	*0.8	*3.2	*0.7
Visit doctor/dentist	25.2	4.9	30.6	6.2
Other (a)	..	..	8.7	1.8
<i>Total personal reasons</i>	<i>224.9</i>	<i>43.7</i>	<i>225.6</i>	<i>46.1</i>
Beneficial for child reasons—				
Good for child	69.2	13.5	59.0	12.1
Prepare for school	9.6	1.9	9.3	1.9
<i>Total beneficial for child reasons</i>	<i>78.8</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>68.4</i>	<i>14.0</i>
Other	16.8	3.3	9.1	1.9
Total children who required (additional) formal care	514.1	100.0	489.2	100.0

(a) In 1990 this category was included under the general 'Other' category. It was not separately identified.

TABLE 2.4 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PARENTS, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

<i>Main type of (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>Labour force status of parents</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<i>Both parents employed full-time (a)</i>	<i>Both parents employed at least one part-time (a)</i>	<i>Both parents in labour force at least one unemployed (a)</i>	<i>One parent employed other not in the labour force</i>	<i>One parent unemployed other not in the labour force</i>	<i>Both parents not in the labour force (a)</i>	
Before and after school care program	32.9	54.0	10.3	15.4	*2.6	9.8	125.1
Long day care centre	9.1	20.5	5.3	18.8	*2.0	8.2	63.8
Family day care	9.4	20.1	*3.4	14.4	*2.2	10.7	60.2
Occasional care	18.8	58.6	11.8	71.1	10.7	20.9	191.8
Pre-school	*1.6	7.9	*3.0	10.0	*3.0	*4.5	30.0
Other formal care	*3.1	4.6	*0.5	6.8	*0.1	*3.2	18.3
<i>Total (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>74.8</i>	<i>165.7</i>	<i>34.2</i>	<i>136.6</i>	<i>20.6</i>	<i>57.4</i>	<i>489.2</i>
No (additional) formal care required	393.6	716.9	157.3	891.9	149.5	287.4	2,596.7
Total children	468.4	882.6	191.5	1,028.5	170.1	344.8	3,085.9

(a) Includes one parent families.

TABLE 2.5 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, JUNE 1993
(*000)

<i>Main type of (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Total</i>
Before and after school care program	36.9	32.8	27.2	12.5	9.2	2.7	*1.3	2.3	125.1
Long day care centre	21.8	13.7	14.7	5.0	5.3	*1.6	*1.2	*0.5	63.8
Family day care	18.3	12.5	10.6	8.1	6.0	2.6	*1.0	*1.1	60.2
Occasional care	53.5	42.4	45.1	15.0	20.8	8.1	3.0	4.0	191.8
Pre-school	17.8	*4.2	*3.2	*1.2	*2.8	*0.3	*0.3	*0.3	30.0
Other formal care	*4.5	*4.8	3.8	*0.9	*2.6	*0.3	*0.9	*0.4	18.3
<i>Total (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>152.8</i>	<i>110.4</i>	<i>104.7</i>	<i>42.7</i>	<i>46.6</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>489.2</i>
No (additional) formal care required	895.6	652.9	441.8	199.3	263.2	69.1	30.3	44.4	2,596.7
Total children	1,048.5	763.3	546.5	242.0	309.8	84.7	38.1	53.1	3,085.9

TABLE 2.6 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE: MAIN TYPE OF (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE REQUIRED BY AGE OF CHILD, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(*000)

<i>Main type of (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>Age of child (years)</i>								<i>Total</i>
	<i>Less than one</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five</i>	<i>Six to Eight</i>	<i>Nine to Eleven</i>	
Before and after school care program	—	—	*0.7	*0.9	*1.3	14.3	59.7	48.2	125.1
Long day care centre	5.0	14.6	15.6	12.3	8.9	*1.8	*2.8	*2.8	63.8
Family day care	7.4	8.9	11.4	9.0	5.2	*4.5	9.1	4.6	60.2
Occasional care	20.8	33.9	36.0	29.1	21.6	11.7	21.9	16.8	191.8
Pre-school	—	*0.6	*3.9	11.2	12.2	*2.2	—	—	30.0
Other formal care	*1.5	*1.8	*2.3	*1.4	*1.7	*0.7	5.1	*3.8	18.3
<i>Total (additional) formal care required</i>	<i>34.7</i>	<i>59.8</i>	<i>69.9</i>	<i>63.9</i>	<i>50.8</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>98.6</i>	<i>76.2</i>	<i>489.2</i>
No (additional) formal care required	228.6	194.8	190.8	195.7	204.5	218.8	669.8	693.6	2,596.7
Total children	263.3	254.6	260.7	259.6	255.3	254.0	768.5	769.8	3,085.9

TABLE 2.7 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO REQUIRED (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE: MAIN REASON FOR NOT USING (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE BY AGE OF CHILD, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993
(^{'000})

<i>Main reason for not using (additional) formal care</i>	<i>Age of child (years)</i>							<i>Total</i>
	<i>Less than one</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five</i>	<i>Six to eleven</i>	
None existed in area/don't know of any in area	5.2	12.2	12.1	13.2	10.3	12.0	69.2	134.2
Child too young/old	*2.4	4.8	*3.6	*2.3	*1.4	*0.7	*2.2	17.4
Transport/distance	*1.9	*1.5	*1.9	*3.5	*2.1	*2.2	7.2	20.2
Cost/too expensive	6.1	6.4	14.8	11.4	7.9	*4.5	21.8	72.8
Booked out/no places	5.9	15.8	14.1	16.2	13.3	*4.1	11.7	81.2
Time available not suitable	*1.2	*2.5	*3.1	*2.2	*2.7	*2.0	9.7	23.4
Other reason	*2.8	6.4	9.3	8.3	8.1	5.6	28.6	69.2
Not known whether care available (a)	9.3	10.1	11.0	6.8	5.0	*4.2	24.5	70.8
Total children who required (additional) formal care	34.7	59.8	69.9	63.9	50.8	35.2	174.9	489.2

(a) The reason for not using (additional) formal care was not asked for these children.

TABLE 2.8 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO DID NOT REQUIRE (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE: MAIN REASON FOR NOT REQUIRING (ADDITIONAL) FORMAL CARE BY AGE OF CHILD, AUSTRALIA, JUNE 1993

<i>Main reason for not requiring (additional) formal care</i>	<i>Age of child (years)</i>							<i>Total</i>
	<i>Less than one</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five</i>	<i>Six to eleven</i>	
Child too young/old	64.5	23.8	15.3	8.3	*1.8	*3.0	14.8	131.5
Transport/distance	—	*0.7	*0.6	*1.3	*1.2	*1.2	7.3	12.3
Cost/too expensive	*4.5	6.0	7.0	5.9	8.4	7.5	43.1	82.4
Time available not suitable	*0.5	*0.6	*1.1	*0.7	*0.5	*1.6	8.2	13.3
Prefer to look after child	46.3	47.7	38.9	36.3	41.1	40.1	226.0	476.3
Prefer other type of care	12.0	13.2	11.3	9.8	8.4	10.4	54.6	119.7
No need	96.4	94.7	111.0	128.1	136.9	148.4	971.1	1,686.6
Other reasons	*0.2	*2.2	*1.4	*1.8	*1.6	*0.7	9.0	16.9
No reason	*4.2	6.0	*4.2	*3.5	*4.5	5.8	29.4	57.5
Total children who did not require (additional) formal care	228.6	194.8	190.8	195.7	204.5	218.8	1,363.5	2,596.7

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains results from the Child Care Survey conducted throughout Australia in June 1993. It is a continuation of a series of surveys, on this topic, conducted since 1969. The previous survey was in November 1990. The major aim of the survey was to collect data on the receipt of, and demand for child care for children aged less than 12 years. Information was also collected on the interaction of working arrangements and child care. Data on this topic will be published later this year in the publication, *Work and Family Responsibilities* (4422.0).

Scope and coverage

2. The child care survey was conducted as a supplement to the Monthly Population Survey (MPS) which is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hospitals, hotels, etc.). The MPS is described more fully in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

3. Information for the child care survey was collected only from private dwellings with children under 12 years of age resident in the selected dwelling. Children visiting the dwelling were excluded. A number of questions applicable to the family were asked only once for each family and were included on the first questionnaire completed for a child in that family.

Survey method

4. Information about the use of, and demand for child care was obtained through interviews conducted over a two week period between 7 and 18 June 1993. Data collected on the use of child care related to the week prior to interview, except in Tasmania, where the data related to the week of 24 to 28 May, which was chosen to avoid a reference period that fell during school holidays.

5. Where possible the information was obtained from the child's mother. Otherwise the father or another responsible adult in the household (e.g. grandparent) provided the data.

6. The classification into care type was generally based on the respondent's perception. During the interview they were shown cards listing the types of care and only if they asked for clarification, were they given a more detailed description.

Related publications

7. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Child Care, Australia, June 1990 (4402.0)

Social Indicators No. 5 1992 (4101.0)

Australian Social Trends (4102.0)

Women in Australia (4113.0)

How Australians Use Their Time — Selected Findings from the 1992 Time Use Survey, Australia (4153.0)

Australia's Families — Selected Findings from the 1992 Survey of Families in Australia (4418.0)

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (6222.0)

Career Experience, Australia (6254.0)

Employment Benefits, Australia (6334.0)

Working Arrangements, Australia (6342.0)

1988–89 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia, Detailed Expenditure Items (6535.0).

8. Publications to be released later this year:

Focus on Families — A Statistical Series—

Demographics and Family Formation (4420.0)

Education and Employment (4421.0)

Work and Family Responsibilities (4422.0)

Caring in Families: Support for Persons Who Are Older or Have Disabilities (4423.0)

Income and Housing (4424.0)

Families and Quality of Life (4425.0)

9. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products*, (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Unpublished statistics

10. As well as the statistics included in this publication, the ABS can produce upon request customised tables from the survey. Inquiries should be made to the contact shown at the front of this publication. Topics that will be available from the survey include:

Demographic items

- Number of children aged 0–11 in family
- Sex of child
- Age of child
- Country of birth of child
- Year of arrival of child
- Whether language other than English spoken at home

Main language spoken at home

- School attendance
- Total income of each parent
- Main source of income

Child care arrangements: formal and informal care

- Type of care arrangements used
- Days of attendance
- Hours of care
- Time of day (only available for Informal Care and Before and After School Care)
- Cost of care
- Reasons for use of child care
- Location and preference of location for Kindergarten and Long Day Care

Demand for formal care

- Type of formal care required
- Number of days more care required
- Reasons for wanting/not wanting more formal care
- Reasons more care not available
- Preference for formal over informal care

Employer assisted child care

- Type of child care assistance provided by employer
- Whether employer assisted care used by parent

Sick Care

- Number of days child sick in last six months from school or formal care
- Whether parent took time off work to care for child
- Type of leave parent took off work to care for child
- Whether any other arrangements other than time off work used to care for child
- Preferred child care arrangements of working parents with sick children

Other

- Whether parents normally use any types of working arrangements to care for their children
- Awareness of fee relief
- Attendance at vacation care

TECHNICAL NOTE ON DATA RELIABILITY

Estimation Procedure

Estimates obtained from the survey were derived using a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that they conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age, sex and state.

Change in Estimation Procedure

2. There has been a change in the procedure used to estimate the number of families with children aged 0–11 years. In the 1990 survey the estimation formula was based on the number of families with children aged 0–14 years calculated from the Monthly Population Survey. For 1993 an adjustment factor has been determined to allow an estimate to be made based on the number of families with children aged 0–11 years, not families with children aged 0–14 years as in 1990. This has resulted in a slightly lower estimate of the total number of families with children aged 0–11 years than reported in the 1990 survey.

3. Please note that there has been *no change in the procedure used to estimate the number of children aged 0–11 years*. These figures can be directly compared with previous survey results.

Reliability of the Estimates

4. Estimates provided in this publication are subject to non-sampling and sampling errors.

Non-sampling error

5. Non-sampling errors may arise as a result of errors in the reporting, recording or processing of the data and can occur even if there is a complete enumeration of the population. These errors can be introduced through inadequacies in the questionnaire; non-response; inaccurate reporting by respondents; errors in the application of survey procedures; incorrect recording of answers; and errors in data entry and processing.

6. It is difficult to measure the size of non-sampling errors and the extent of these errors could vary considerably in significance from survey to survey and from question to question. However, every effort is made in the design of the survey and development of survey procedures to minimise the effects of these errors.

Sampling error

7. Sampling error is the error which occurs by chance because the data were only obtained from a sample, not the entire population.

Standard error of estimates

8. One measure of the variability of estimates which occurs as a result of surveying only a sample of the population is the *standard error* (SE). This measures the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of households was included. There are about two chances in three that a survey estimate is within one standard error of the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty, that it is within two standard errors. That is, there are 19 chances in 20 that the true estimate is in the range:

$$x - 2SE(x) \text{ to } x + 2SE(x)$$

(where x is the estimate)

9. The standard error of an estimate may be obtained from the tables below.

Relative standard errors

10. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of estimates and this is known as *relative standard error* (RSE). Whilst the standard error increases as the size of the estimate increases, the relative standard error will decrease so that larger estimates are relatively more reliable than smaller ones.

11. The RSE is determined by dividing the standard error of an estimate $SE(x)$ by the estimate x and expressing it as a percentage. That is:

$$RSE(x) = SE(x) \times \left(\frac{100}{x} \right)$$

12. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the RSE of a proportion or percentage is—

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 + [RSE(y)]^2}$$

13. Only estimates with an RSE of less than 25 per cent are regarded as sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with larger RSE have been included in this publication, preceded by an * to indicate that they should only be used with caution.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES—CHILDREN

Size of estimate	Australia								Relative standard error (per cent)
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT (number)	
100	120	..	..	110	..	80	120	90	100.7
200	200	220	210	170	210	130	170	140	81.5
300	260	290	260	210	260	160	200	170	71.5
400	320	340	300	250	300	200	230	190	64.8
500	370	390	340	290	330	220	250	220	60.0
600	410	430	370	320	360	250	270	240	56.2
800	500	510	430	370	420	290	310	270	50.6
1,000	570	570	480	420	470	330	340	300	46.5
1,300	670	660	550	480	530	370	380	340	42.0
1,500	730	720	590	520	570	400	400	360	39.7
1,800	820	790	650	570	620	440	440	390	36.9
2,000	870	840	680	600	660	460	450	410	35.4
2,500	990	940	770	670	730	520	500	450	32.3
3,000	1,100	1,050	840	730	790	560	540	480	29.9
3,500	1,200	1,100	910	790	850	600	570	510	28.0
4,000	1,300	1,200	970	840	910	640	610	540	26.4
4,500	1,350	1,250	1,050	890	960	670	640	570	25.1
5,000	1,450	1,350	1,100	940	1,000	710	660	590	24.0
6,000	1,600	1,450	1,200	1,000	1,100	760	720	630	22.1
10,000	2,050	1,850	1,550	1,300	1,350	930	880	760	17.5
20,000	2,850	2,550	2,150	1,750	1,800	1,200	1,150	950	12.5
50,000	4,150	3,800	3,300	2,550	2,650	1,600	1,650	1,250	7.8
100,000	5,400	5,000	4,600	3,300	3,450	1,900	2,150	1,450	5.3
200,000	6,800	6,400	6,400	4,200	4,450	2,200	2,800	1,700	3.6
300,000	7,700	7,400	7,700	4,800	5,100	2,350	..	1,850	2.8
500,000	8,800	8,800	9,700	5,600	6,100	2,550	..	..	2.1
1,000,000	10,500	10,900	13,300	6,900	7,600	..	..	..	1.3

GLOSSARY

Area of usual residence

State Capital Cities: This includes the Statistical Divisions of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. Please note that Darwin and Canberra are excluded from this category.

Balance of Australia: Includes all areas outside of the capital cities mentioned above plus Canberra and Darwin.

Before and After School Care Program

A type of formal care available to school aged children before and/or after school hours.

Brother/sister/step care

Informal care by the child's brothers or sisters, including step brothers or sisters.

Child care

Relates to those types of care described as formal and informal.

Children

Refers to all children under 12 years of age in scope for the survey.

Cost of care

Money paid by parents for child to attend child care. Includes a category of 'no cost'.

Employed persons

Employed persons are those aged 15 years and older during the reference week that worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm; or work without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers).

Also included are: Employees who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; leave without pay for less than four weeks; stood down without pay for less than four weeks; on strike or lockout; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full time study, and

Employers, self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Full-time workers are employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week and others who, although usually work less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Part-time workers are employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.

Family

For the purpose of this publication, a family consists of one or two parents and one or more children under 12 years of age, regardless of whether older children or other relatives are also usually resident.

Family Day Care

A type of formal care offered in private homes by registered carers, available for a full day to children of all ages.

Family type

Refers to one or two parent families.

Father

The natural, adopted or step father of the child; or the male legal guardian of the child; or the spouse or de facto partner of the mother.

Formal care

Regulated care away from the child's home, which includes Pre-school; Before and After School Care Program; Long Day Care Centre; Family Day Care; Occasional Care and Other Formal Care.

Informal care

Non-regulated care either in the child's home or elsewhere. It includes care by (step)brothers or sisters; care by relatives (including non-custodial parent) and by other persons.

Long Day Care Centre

Regulated, centre based care which is generally available to children between birth and school age for the full day. Centres are usually open for most of the year.

Main type of (additional) formal care required

Main type of (additional) formal care required for children already using formal care and for those children who do not use any. Respondents were asked was there any time in the last four weeks when they would have liked to use any (more) formal care services.

Mother

The natural, adopted or step mother of the child; or the female legal guardian of the child; or the spouse or de facto partner of the father.

Occasional Care

Regulated care, which is generally available to children between birth and school age for short periods of time to allow parents to shop, attend appointments, or to take brief breaks from parenting.

Other Formal Care

This includes any other non-home based formal care whose primary function is the care of children for short periods of time. It also includes adjunct care. An example is; facilities available at a fitness centre to care for the child while the parent participates in the centre's activities.

Other person care

Care by people who are not related to the child.

Other relative care

Care by relations of the child excluding (step) brothers and sisters; includes in-laws, ex-wives/husbands of the parent interviewed.

Pre-school

A type of formal care generally available in school hours during school terms for children from 3 years of age (younger children are sometimes accepted) up to the school starting age. Children usually have fixed attendance times. Also known as Kindergarten in some States.

Persons not in the labour force

To be classified as being in the labour force, a person must be aged 15 years or over and either be employed or unemployed. Persons not in the labour force, therefore, include all persons aged 15 years and over that do not meet the criteria to be classified as either employed or unemployed.

Reason used care

The respondent was asked to identify their main reason for using child care.

Work related reasons also include looking for work and studying/training for work

Personal reasons include shopping, entertainment, social or sporting activities, give parents a break/time alone, care for relatives, visit doctor etc. and or undertake voluntary/community activities.

Beneficial for child reasons include, good for child and to prepare them for school.



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